

# ONLY LACK OF "GAS" STOPS "TANK" HEADED FOR BERLIN; FURIOUS FIGHT FOR MONSTER

Bombs Fall as "Can Openers"  
and 250 Die in Effort  
to Take It.

By Frederick Palmer.  
BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE,  
Sept. 17 (via London, Sept. 18).—In  
the night which has occurred af-  
ter the great two-days' battle in  
which five villages and 5,000 prison-  
ers were taken by the Allies, the cor-  
respondent of the Associated Press

has had an opportunity to glean many  
stories from the participants in the  
struggle.  
The most wonderful of all the tales  
told was perhaps that of one of the  
"tanks," or new armored motor cars,  
which started for Berlin on its own  
account. This monstrous landship,  
smiling and rumbling along, did not  
wait on the infantry after the taking  
of Guinecourt, but plodded over  
shell holes and across late looking for  
its prey like some prehistoric beast.  
In course of time it found a German  
trench, but as it engaged the occu-  
pants with its machine gun it ran  
out of gasoline. According to the accounts given by

the British officers with voracious  
enthusiasm, while the tank's machine  
guns blazed right and left some of  
the German machine guns crept along  
the trenches under the torments and  
hissings of the crutching beast. Then  
they swarmed over it, looking for an  
opening through which to strike at its  
vitals.

They fired their rifles into holes  
and blasted it all over, but to no  
more avail than burglars trying to  
reach the inside of a battleship sur-  
rounding a jumbo. All the while the  
tank's machine guns kept busy at the  
human targets in reach, while its  
crew, chosen daredevils, continued to  
stick until they starved or the Ger-  
mans found the proper man to open to  
get them out.

Finally the British infantry in the  
rear, seeing the tank in distress, re-  
fused to wait on any General's orders  
that they should remain at the ob-  
jective which they had gained. They  
were out to save that impounded tank,  
and with a cheer they rushed the  
Germans, and overwhelmed them.  
When the crew heard the laughing  
and shouting in English they opened  
the door and called out:

"We are all right if you will only  
get us some more juice so that the  
old lady can have a good drink and  
proper drink and we can take the road  
again."  
So the infantry formed a line in  
front of the tank, determined to de-  
fend her to the last man, while a run-  
ner was hurried back for a can of  
gasoline. The gasoline arrived safely  
and the beast, having taken a swal-  
low, snubbed back its crew and  
wild cheering. It left behind 250 dead  
Germans, according to its commander.

The taking of Thiépval and the  
Zoullers redoubt, which lies between  
it and Courcellette, was a wonderful  
achievement. Thiépval was held by the  
One Hundred and Eightieth German  
regiment, which had been there for a  
long time. According to prisoners,  
the Germans had been digging the  
manning ridge with an amazing  
series of rammed tunnels and dugouts.  
They had dug into the chalky earth  
with beaver-like industry, until they  
were safe under a shell fire which  
would have turned a fort like Mau-  
beuge or Liège, or any other of the  
pre-war type, into the jumbled grave  
of its garrison.

Not only at this village, but all  
along the ridge upon which hangs  
the whole Anglo-French movement  
was the same state of warfare where  
the Germans lived with all the com-  
forts of home. The Hundred and  
Eightieth had coddled its brains to  
make Thiépval the very last word in  
this kind of defense.

It was this sort of preparation  
which stopped the British attack on  
July 1. Then, as the British infan-  
try charged after the artillery bom-  
bardment, the Germans popped out  
of their hiding places with machine  
guns and swept the lines of khaki  
with their deadly spray.

Bit by bit since July 1 the British  
have worked their way forward. Yes-  
terday, when they went after Thiép-  
val and the Zoullers redoubt, the Brit-  
ish soldiers, as one of the captured  
Germans said, were at the doors of  
the dugouts almost as soon as the  
last shell of the preliminary bom-  
bardment had burst. A hurricane of  
shells kept the Germans in their  
burrows and when it had lifted the  
British had arrived.

Though the Germans in many dug-  
outs where their galleries of escape  
were closed, surrendered in bodies, in  
other instances they kept the faith  
that the Hundred and Eightieth  
would die before it ever surrendered  
Thiépval.  
All of yesterday the British were  
trying for the entrances to dugouts  
in the blackened ruins of the town  
amid the stench of all kinds of ex-  
plosives as well as gas and lachry-  
matory shells. There was sporadic  
hand-to-hand fighting and at inter-  
vals Germans appeared from the  
bowels of the earth with their hands  
up and surrendered to the British  
soldiers, who were smoking cigars  
found in the German dugouts.

## Save the Babies.

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